

REMARKS

By the current amendment, Applicant has replaced the Abstract to remove element numbering and to eliminate minor grammatical errors.

Applicant respectfully submits that entry of the present amendment is proper under 35 C.F.R. §1.312(a) since it does not require any additional search and/or examination on the part of the Office.

Although this amendment is being submitted after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance and although amendments may not be made as a matter of right after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, Applicant submits that entry of the herein-contained amendments is appropriate to ensure that the Abstract conforms to standard U.S. format. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to exercise his discretion and to indicate the entry of the amendment contained herein under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.312(a).

The changes introduced by the amendment contained above do not continue the prosecution of the application after the Notice of Allowance. Rather, these amendments merely eliminate element numbering and correct minor grammatical errors in the Abstract.

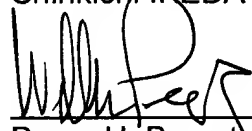
The above-amendments further do not require a substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office. The Examiner has already considered the reasons for patentability of the present invention. Thus, no new issues are raised by the above-amendment. Accordingly, Applicant submits that under the criteria set forth in the M.P.E.P., the present amendments should be considered and their entry should be recommended by the Primary Examiner.

P21688.A07

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the present amendments to the Abstract. Entry of the above amendment is believed to be appropriate and is respectfully requested from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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May 10, 2005  
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